

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Claim 1. A method of playing a video poker game having a bonus award feature comprising:

- a) establishing a predetermined arrangement of cards as a winning bonus award;
- b) dealing a first initial five card hand to a player;
- c) determining whether any of the first initial five cards match any of the predetermined arrangement of cards and if any matches occur, noting the matched cards;
- d) allowing the player to play out the first initial five card hand according to the conventional manner of play of video poker;
- e) continuing to deal subsequent initial five card hands and determining whether any of the cards of each subsequent hand match any of the predetermined arrangement of cards and noting the matched cards;
- f) continuing to allow the player to play out each of the subsequent initial five card hands according to the conventional manner of play of video poker; and
- g) when all the predetermined arrangement of cards

have been matched, determining whether the player has achieved a bonus award.

Claim 2. The method of Claim 1 in which the player makes a wager to be eligible to participate in the video poker game.

Claim 3. The method of Claim 2 in which the player receives a bonus award based on the number of initial five card hands that are dealt in order for all of the predetermined arrangement of cards to be matched.

Claim 4. The method of Claim 3 in which the bonus award is based on a pay table.

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Claim 6. The method of Claim 1 in which the predetermined arrangement of cards is five cards.

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